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Open-ended Working Group on the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament
Second substantive session
New York, 11-15 July 2016

Objectives and an agenda for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

Proposal by the Chair of the Working Group

Introduction

The present draft is intended to serve as a basis for text-based negotiations of agreed recommendations, to be submitted to the First Committee, on objectives and an agenda for the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. This proposal is based on those circulated through working papers submitted by groups or States at the first substantive session of the Working Group, taking into account comments and proposals made from the floor, using elements of convergence and attempting to bridge points of divergence.

While a new special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will be anchored on the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, in order to be relevant it has to be forward-looking; this is the spirit that underlies this proposal.

Depending on the progress of the discussions and the agreement reached in the Working Group, the Chair may issue further draft proposals.

Objectives

- To reaffirm the collective commitment of Member States to working towards achieving the disarmament goals and priorities, including those set forth in the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, taking into account new security challenges
- To provide for a comprehensive consideration and review of all issues in the field of disarmament and international security, at the global, regional and subregional levels, in order to identify ways and means of advancing

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disarmament goals and priorities, including nuclear disarmament, as set forth in the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, with due consideration given to current trends and challenges

- To consider and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the first special session devoted to disarmament with a view to identifying ways and means of achieving further progress in all its aspects in order to achieve its ultimate goal
- To review the disarmament machinery established by the General Assembly at the first special session devoted to disarmament with a view to strengthening it and improving its effectiveness, bearing in mind the central role of the United Nations
- To promote multilateralism in the field of disarmament, enhancing cooperation at all levels and building confidence among States

Agenda

- Assessment of developments, trends and challenges with regard to all issues in the field of disarmament and international security, with a view to elaborating concrete and practical measures, including — if necessary — additional principles, in order to advance the disarmament process and enhance cooperation and confidence among States, taking into account the priorities and principles set out in the Final Document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament, and the relationship between disarmament and development
- Review of the functioning of the disarmament machinery, in the light of current realities, in order to increase its effectiveness and relevance, enhancing and strengthening the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament
- Consideration of a particular pressing item or items arising in the field of disarmament and international security [to be determined, if necessary, by the Preparatory Committee]
- Adoption of the final document(s)